

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2021 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 3053**

BY DELEGATES FOSTER, AND STEELE

[Introduced March 10, 2021; Referred to the  
Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
then Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact § 30-10-10 and §30-10-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as  
 2 amended, relating to veterinary nurse technicians, defining the requirements to become a  
 3 veterinary nurse technician; and clarifying the scope of practice for veterinary technician  
 4 nurses.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 10. VETERINARIANS.**

**§30-10-10. Requirements for a registered veterinary technician nurse.**

1 (a) To be eligible for a registration to practice veterinary technology under the provisions  
 2 of this article, the applicant must:

- 3 (1) ~~Be of good moral character;~~
- 4 (2)-(1) Have a degree in veterinary technology from an accredited school, approved by the  
 5 board;
- 6 (3) (2) Have passed the VTNE (Veterinary Technician National Examination) examinations  
 7 required by the board;
- 8 (4) (3) Be at least 18 years of age;
- 9 (5) ~~Be a citizen of the United States or be eligible for employment in the United States;~~
- 10 (6) ~~Not have been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude;~~
- 11 (7) ~~Not have been convicted of a felony under the laws of any jurisdiction within five years~~  
 12 ~~preceding the date of application for registration which conviction remains unreversed; and~~
- 13 (8) (4) Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony under the laws of any  
 14 jurisdiction at any time if the offense for which the applicant was convicted related to the practice  
 15 of veterinary technology or animal abuse or neglect.

16 (b) ~~A person seeking registration under the provisions of this~~  
 17 ~~article shall submit an application on a form prescribed by the board and pay all applicable~~  
 18 ~~fees.~~

19 (c) ~~A person registered to practice veterinary technology issued by the board prior to July~~

20 ~~1, 2010, shall for all purposes be considered registered under this article and may renew pursuant~~  
21 ~~to the provisions of this article~~

**§30-10-11. Scope of practice for registered veterinary technician nurse.**

1 (a) A ~~registered veterinary technician~~ nurse may do the following under general  
2 supervision:

3 (1) Administer anesthesia, including induction, intravenous sedation, and maintenance  
4 and recovery from anesthesia;

5 (2) Perform dental prophylaxis;

6 (3) Establish open airways;

7 (4) Administer resuscitative oxygen procedures;

8 (5) Administer resuscitative drugs, in the event of cardiac arrest;

9 (6) Administer immunizations that are not required by law to be administered by a licensed  
10 veterinarian;

11 (7) Prepare or supervise the preparation of patients for surgery;

12 (8) Assist the veterinarian in immunologic, diagnostic, medical, chemotherapeutic and  
13 surgical procedures; and

14 (9) Perform external suturing.

15 (b) A ~~registered veterinary technician~~ nurse may do the following under either general or  
16 indirect supervision:

17 (1) Perform diagnostic imaging;

18 (2) Perform intravenous catheterization;

19 (3) Administer and apply medications and treatments by oral intramuscular, intravenous  
20 and subcutaneous routes;

21 (4) Apply bandages;

22 (5) Perform cardiac and respiratory monitoring;

23 (6) Perform appropriate procedures to control bleeding;

24 (7) Apply temporary splints or immobilizing bandages;

25 (8) Perform ear flushing;

26 (9) Collect specimens; and

27 (10) Perform laboratory procedures.

28 (c) A veterinary ~~technician~~ nurse may, without supervision, use emergency treatment  
29 procedures when an animal has been placed in a life-threatening condition and immediate  
30 treatment is necessary to sustain the animal's life. The ~~registered~~  
31 veterinary ~~technician~~ nurse shall immediately take steps to secure the general supervision of a  
32 veterinarian.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to define the requirements and scope of practice for veterinary nurses.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.